

## Message Text

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62

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-06 ARA-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-06 EUR-12 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NRC-05 /123 W

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R 091210Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3317

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

S E C R E T KUWAIT 2886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, ENRG, KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT ATTITUDE TOWARD MULTINATIONAL NUCLEAR CENTER

REF: A. STATE 154049 B. KUWAIT 2504 C. KUWAIT 1552 C. KUWAIT 1449

1. LATEST EMBASSY REPORTS ON GOK NUCLEAR POWER PLANS CONTAINED IN REFTELS B,C, AND D. AS INDICATED REFTELS PURPOSE OF GOK PROGRAM IS TO DEVELOPE ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF ENERGY IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE WHEN DOMESTIC GAS SUPPLY EXPECTED TO BE INSUFFICIENT TO MEET LOCAL REQUIREMENTS AND IN LIGHT POLLUTION PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH USING KUWAITI CRUDE AS FUEL. HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT GOK HAS ANY INTEREST IN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR OTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE OR AN INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE.

2. ALSO UNLIKELY THAT GOK EXPECTS TO HAVE REPROCESSING FACILITY LOCATED HERE, BUT ASSURED ACCESS TO REPROCESSING FACILITY SOMEWHERE ELSE WOULD BE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL. WE THINK KUWAITIS WOULD EXPECT REPROCESSING TO BE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN OVERALL AGREEMENT WITH SUPPLIER OF FUEL. GOK OFFICIALS PROBABLY ASSUME, SAY, IF FRANCE SUPPLIES FUEL, PART OF DEAL WILL BE ASSURED ACCESS TO REPROCESSING FACILITIES IN FRANCE.

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3. REFTEL B REPORTED ON PLANS BY GOK TO COOPERATE WITH SAUDI

ARABIA AND BAHRAIN IN DEVELOPEMENT NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM. KUWAITIS WOULD PROBABLY WELCOME PARTICIPATION BY OTHER REGIONAL ARAB STATES IN PROGRAM AS WELL. THEREFORE, GOK MAY SEE MERIT IN REGIONAL, MULTINATIONAL NUCLEAR PROCESSING CENTERS, PARTICULARLY IF CENTERS CAN SERVE TO DEPOLITICIZE TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING NUCLEAR FUEL.

4. KUWAITIS PROBABLY WOULD BE MOST COMFORTABLE WITH ANYTHING THAT COULD GO UNDER THE RUBRIC OF AN "ARAB" CENTER, BUT WE NOTE SUCH A CENTER COULD BE INHERENTLY CONTROVERSIAL. KUWAITIS MAY ALSO BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN GULD REGIONAL CENTER, BUT IF CENTER IS TO BE LOCATED IN IRAN THERE COULD BE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS, DEPENDING IN PART ON THE CURRENT STATE OF ARAB-IRANIAN RELATIONS. EVEN WITH RESPECT TO ARAB CENTER, HOWEVER, KUWAITIS WOULD WISH TO BE CERTAIN THAT MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCT OF CENTER ARE FULLY EQUAL TO WHAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN US OR EUROPE. IN SHORT, QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF REGIONAL CENTERS MAY BE MORE OF A PROBLEM FOR GOK THAN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE GOK MAY SEE SOME ADVANTAGES TO REGIONAL NUCLEAR CENTERS, AND WE THINK GOK OFFICIALS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BEING BRIEFED ON IDEA AT ONE STAGE. OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IS ASSURED SUPPLY OF FUEL, HOWEVER. THEREFORE, GOK ATTITUDE MAY DEPEND ON THAT OF POTENTIAL SUPPLIER OF NUCLEAR FUEL ITSELF.  
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## Message Attributes

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